

Exhibit A



Rubicon Trail Foundation, Inc.

P. O. Box 2188
Placerville, CA 95667

a non-profit Educational Foundation
for the Rubicon Trail

*To enhance the future health and use of the Rubicon Trail,
while ensuring responsible motorized year-round trail access.*

Trail Population Counts

Obtaining meaningful trail population counts has long been a challenge for the Rubicon, since different users have different usage patterns. Some users day-trip, others visit over the weekend, and still others go during the week. Some recreate alone, others recreate in groups, and that leads to confusion: **do you count vehicles, visitors, or visitor days?**

Totheroh Backcountry Sanitation Estimates (2001)

In 2001, California State Parks OHV Motor Vehicle Commission, El Dorado County, and Eldorado National Forest commissioned Dan Totheroh, a backcountry sanitation engineer, to estimate trail use and human waste build-up. On December 12, 2001, the results of the study included the following estimates:

- About 15,000 people were counted entering the area from Loon Lake during the weekends of July, August, and September.
- It was believed that other west side entrance points would have insignificant use compared to the number of people entering at Loon Lake.
- Weekday use would be about 10% of the weekend total for this 3-month period (2000 people).
- Most people that enter the area spend one night, with only a few making a round trip in one day. It was estimated that **35,000 people days** would be a reasonable figure to use for total annual use on the Rubicon Trail.
- Of this use, 20-40% would take place on private land, and therefore would not be included in the public land total. So, the public land use would be approximately 25,000 people days.

Important Note: the **35,000 number** was a **2001 estimate for people days**, and **never estimated vehicles**. Totheroh was estimating to scope the size of the backcountry sanitation issue, not counting vehicles.

All Traffic Data Trail Count (2003)

In association with the data collection for preparation of the Rubicon Trail Master Plan for El Dorado County, All Traffic Data conducted 12-hour traffic counts at the Rubicon Trail/Ellis Creek Intertie Junction during 2003. Results from this study are summarized below:

Access Route	Travel Direction	Date			
		July 24 (Th)	July 25 (Fri)	August 30 (Sat)	August 31 (Sun)
Rubicon Trail eastbound from Wentworth Springs	East to Lake Tahoe	3	7	20	1
	South to Loon Lake	0	4	7	3
Rubicon Trail westbound from Lake Tahoe	South to Loon Lake	3	11	41	100
	West to Georgetown	8	7	13	13
Ellis Creek Intertie northbound from Loon Lake	West to Georgetown	1	6	5	6
	East to Lake Tahoe	171	102	135	38
Totals		<u>186</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>161</u>

- These totals amount to an average of 176 vehicles per day over a four-day non-holiday period spanning from Thursday to Sunday.



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Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR) Trail Count (2005)

Responding to an obvious need for more precise data, FOTR staged a 24-hour-a-day count over the entire 2005 Fourth of July Holiday Weekend. FOTR began counting at 3:00 a.m. on July 1 and went through to 2:30 p.m. on July 4 when traffic tapered off. Volunteers camped at Ellis Creek and made contact with everyone that passed by, carefully logging the direction of travel, type of vehicle, number of occupants, entrance location, exit location, trip destination, trip duration, and some qualitative interview points.

The FOTR study provided the following results:

- 372 vehicles were surveyed, with an average of 1.78 people per vehicle
- this is an average of 106 vehicles per day (372 divided by 3.5 days) over a busy holiday weekend
- of those surveyed: 74% were 4x4s, 9% were quads, 4% were motorcycles, 3% were sand rails, and 5% were hikers
- 85% of the traffic was Eastbound with Spider (43%) and Buck (28%) as the primary destinations, with only 12% planning a trip all the way through to Tahoe
- the vast majority of users passing Ellis Creek (79%) enter at Loon (Wentworth was next closest, at 12%) and the majority of those users exit at Loon, as well
- 78% of users enter the trail for the weekend and stay for more than just one day

FOTR's perception of past usage is that 07/04/05 is about a third of what traffic was for 2000-2003 big holiday weekends, with causes speculated to be the closure of the land around Spider Lake and the law enforcement show of force on Memorial Day. The details of the FOTR trail count are set forth in full on the following page.

Cross-referencing Data Sets to Determine Average Annual Trail Use

The challenge is differentiating between vehicles, visitors, and visitor days.

2001: Taking the 17,000 people estimate for visitation during July, August, and September, and dividing by 1.78 people per vehicle, as validated in the 2005 FOTR Trail Count, we can estimate that in 2001 approximately 9,550 vehicles were on the trail during these three summer months. If we take the 35,000 annual people days estimate, and divide by 1.78 people per vehicle, we can very roughly assume approximately 19,662 vehicles were on the trail during 2001.

2003: Based upon the average number of 176 vehicles each day over a four-day non-holiday period, we can attempt to determine vehicle use during the summer of 2003. There were thirteen weekends during July, August and September in 2003, and if we include Thursday and Friday, this equals 52 days, which equals 9,152 vehicles. If we add 10% for weekday use as done in the Totheroh Study, this adds another 915 vehicles to 9,152, which is a total vehicle use during the three-month summer period of 10,067.

2005: The 2005 FOTR Trail Count took place over one of the busiest holiday weekends, and the number of vehicles averaged only 106 per day. This strongly suggests that trail use has decreased significantly since the studies in 2001 and 2003.

2009 Actual: Actual trail usage has decreased further since 2005. Rubicon Trail Foundation estimates that there will be 17,000 annual visitor days, about 10,000 vehicle use-days annually, and fewer than 7,500 vehicles will visit the trail in 2009.



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Details of the Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR) Trail Count (2005)

Sheet Total	First Survey		People per Vehicle		Entry Trailhead		Travel Direction		On-Trail Destination					Exit Trailhead			Day or Weekend		Vehicle Type																	
	Yes	No	NA	People	Vehicle	Loon	WW	McK	Tahoe	NA	E	W	N	NA	Ellis	Walker	Spider	Buck	Springs	Tahoe	AJC	NA	Loon	WW	McK	Tahoe	NA	Wkend	Day	NA	4x4	Quad	MX	Rail	Hike	NA
43	33	10		42	24	35	6	2			40			3	2	1	18	15	4			3	33	2	4	4		38	3	2	38	2	2		1	
43	28	9	6	82	43	37	1	5			38		2	3	2		20	11		3		7	10	6	3	24		29	1	13	21	4		7	11	
39	37	2		68	38	33	5	1			39				7		12	18				2	26	6	1	5	1	33	6		30	1	2		6	
26	25	1		46	23	26					26						6	16				4	22			4		22	4		26					
43	43			3	1	38	5				22	20		1	4	5	25	7				2	36	4	1	2		40	3		30	11			2	
45	45			72	42	30	15				45						13	12	17	3			20	3		22		43	2		37	2	6			
43	28	11	4	65	42	33	2			8	36		3	4			10	12				21	23					24	1	18	31	4		2	6	
43	35	8		65	40	28	5	2		8	33			10			2	19	9		2	11	18	3	6	5	11	28	7	8	19	5	5	4	9	1
12	4	8		25	12	12					12						9	3				12						7	5		12					
33	33			13	6	19	4	9	1		23	9	1				27	3		1	2		18	6	9			27	6		28	4	1			
2	2			4	2	2					2						2											2			2					
372	313	33	26	485	273	293	43	19	1	16	316	29	6	21	15	10	159	106	21	7	4	50	218	22	27	45	60	291	40	41	274	33	16	11	20	18
	84%	9%	7%	ave:	1.78	79%	12%	5%	0%	4%	85%	8%	2%	6%	4%	3%	43%	28%	6%	2%	1%	13%	59%	6%	7%	12%	16%	78%	11%	11%	74%	9%	4%	3%	5%	5%

Methodology

FOTR only counted data for vehicles passing inbound on a single trip.

- If vehicles came in multiple times a day, they were only counted once; if they came by on separate days on the same trip, they were only counted once
- but if they went in and out in one day, then in and out the next day, then they were counted twice

NOTE: some fields were tracked as NA to try to separate out partial incomplete data but still make use of the parts of data that still had merit -- especially the person counts

Results of Interest

- 372 vehicles surveyed, with an average of 1.78 people per vehicle
- FOTR's perception of past usage is that 07/04/05 is about a third of what traffic was for 2000-2003 big holiday weekends (causes: Spider closure, law enforcement show of force on Memorial Day)
- 74% 4x4s, 9% quads, 4% cycles, 3% sand rails, 5% hikers
- 85% of the traffic was Eastbound; Spider (43%) and Buck (28%) were the primary destinations, with only 12% planning a trip all the way through
- the vast majority of users passing Ellis Creek (79%) enter at Loon (Wentworth was next closest, at 12%) and the majority of those users exit at Loon, as well
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